What is claimed is:

1. A channel allocation method in a multirate optical WDM transmission system, the method comprising:

selecting a channel having the lowest transmission speed from not allotted channels;

allotting the selected channel to the longest wavelength band of empty wavelength bands; and

determining whether not allotted channels exist in order to repeatedly perform selecting the channel having the lowest transmission speed from the not allotted channels and allotting the selected channel to the longest wavelength band of the empty wavelength bands, until all the channels are allotted.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the bands include a short wavelength band of C-band and a long wavelength band of L-band.